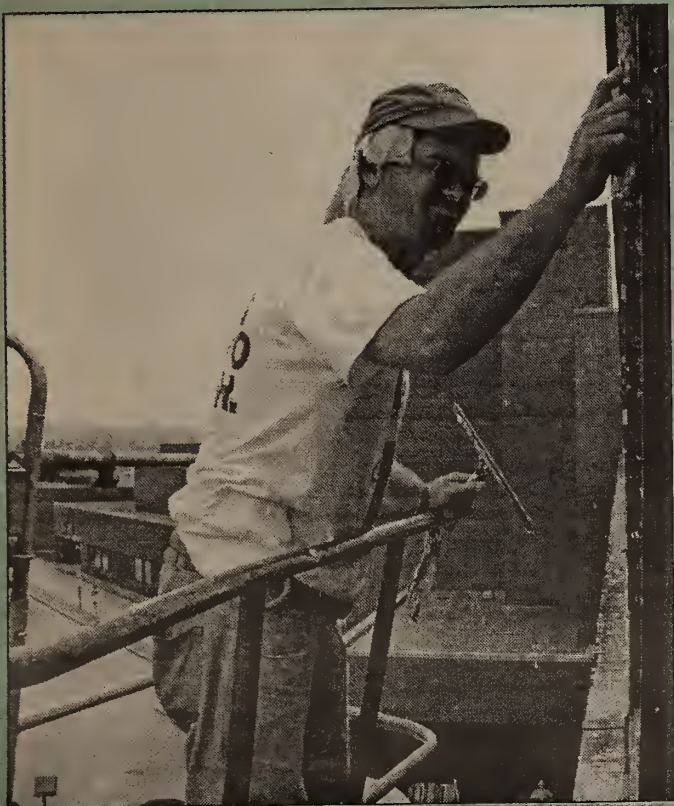


Wash day



Bill Norris of Enviro window cleaners from London washes the fourth floor windows at Doon campus. Norris and his colleague, Chris Barrett, have been contracted by the college to perform the task annually. (Photo by Craig Vallbacka)

## Conestoga representatives now part of Team Kitchener

By Tony Kobilnyk

Conestoga College has become involved in the newly formed Team Kitchener despite Mayor Richard Christy initially not asking the college to participate on the committee.

Christy selected the committee without consulting city council or the Kitchener business industry advisory council, according to an article in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

Team Kitchener, a task force composed of members of the business and education community, was suggested by Christy after the Team Canada trade mission to Asia earlier this year.

The committee will offer advice on how Kitchener can be more attractive to international markets and investors, Conestoga president John Tibbits said.

He said Conestoga was asked to be part of the committee after city councillors and members of the business industry advisory council suggested to the mayor that the college should be included.

Conestoga's involvement in

Team Kitchener will raise the college's profile on an international level and help show what companies from other parts of the world require with respect to skills training, he said.

"It will help us with our own needs analysis as far as skills training is concerned."

Conestoga will also actively participate in defining study parameters the committee will use to collect data on the kinds of services that should be highlighted to attract international business to Kitchener, he said.

"I think it's important for Conestoga to be on the committee, otherwise there may be an oversight as far as the whole skills component is concerned," Tibbits said. "We are the only post-secondary organization in Kitchener. The college plays a huge role in the economic development of Kitchener."

Although Tibbits said it is important for Conestoga to be involved on the committee, he said the committee should expand its parameters to gather data which includes services offered by the

entire region rather than just Kitchener.

According to Tibbits, presenting a total range of regional services would be more appealing and informative to foreign investors who may be considering doing business in Canada's technology triangle.

"Business people might want to know that Toyota is a major employer in Cambridge or that the University of Guelph is only 20 minutes from here and is a major player in the agri-business industry in Canada," he said.

He said currently, Guelph, Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge all have their own economic development offices. He said that promoting the entire area from one regional office would be more sensible and cost effective than having each city conducting independent marketing efforts.

Wayne Hussey, head of community relations, and Larry Rechsteiner, director of international education, will be representing the college on Team Kitchener.

## Teaching award winner stresses caring approach

By Ross Bragg

A caring and balanced approach is essential to good teaching, said the winner of this year's Aubrey Hagar Distinguished Teaching Award.

"If a student's energy is going into fear — fear of not passing — they are not going to learn as well," said Alexandra McGregor, a teacher in the nursing program at Conestoga.

McGregor was presented the Hagar Award, named after a founding member of the college's board of governors, at the convocation ceremony for the school of health sciences and community services on June 24.

She has taught in both the theoretical and clinical areas at Conestoga for the last 13 of her 16 years of teaching and has recently completed doctoral studies at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto.

McGregor said good teaching and good nursing share some essential characteristics. "Nursing has tried hard to use the caring ethic as its central ideology. The bottom line is, if you care for other people and bring together respect and dignity, your practice will be the best it can be. Nursing education has drawn on that."

She said she believes students learn best with a more self-directed approach.

"It is very hard for people to learn when they are oppressed — to be told what they are going to learn and how they are going to learn it. Self-directed learning is very important. It places the heart of the responsibility within the people themselves."

McGregor said she is always trying to develop her skills as a teacher and to listen to the students.

"I once had a student who said she was scared to have me as a teacher because my expectations were so high. She took a huge risk to talk to me, but it really opened up a

two-way line of communication."

She said in teaching she has learned to keep those type of risks low and minimize the power relationship between the student and teacher.

"No matter how you cut the cake, we hold the power to pass or fail people. But, I real-

ly try to dilute that power as I work with the students so they can learn. If I am worried about them and how they are performing, then we can work together."

She said in nursing education there is a specific need to balance a caring ethic with a structured learning environment.

"There are certain skills we have to be trained to obey, like following the proper principle for giving an injection. I have moved over time to a balance. You can teach those critical skills in a caring way and help keep people's personhood intact as they learn — because nobody learns in fear."

She said she has had many teaching role models, but she remembers a particular nursing teacher at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

"I remember going to do a report on a child. This nursing teacher put her hand out and touched me and asked if I had listened to the child's chest. She had beside her this big stack of stethoscopes."

"She said, 'I would be pleased to hear your report when you listen to your child's chest.' She did not ridicule me. She just gently modeled what she expected. It was the first time I felt comfortable in my own skin."

She said she used to worry about an emphasis on caring in her teaching methods.

"I thought I would be seen by the students as a pushover. I work hard at being a nice person, but I also work hard at making sure the student's needs are looked after and I am doing whatever I can do to help them."

McGregor said she will be taking a long awaited break from work on her just completed doctoral thesis this summer, but is looking forward to teaching again in September.



Alexandra McGregor, a nursing professor at Conestoga, is this year's winner of the Aubrey Hagar Distinguished Teaching Award. (Photo by Lynne Thompson)



## New computer software

## Conestoga teachers develop learning tool

By Craig Vallbacka

With computers and technology playing a larger role in educational delivery techniques, a husband and wife from Conestoga College are approaching the commercial release of their own software package.

Nancy and Brad Nelson, both instructors in the mechanical engineering program, have developed two programs, PS Author and PS Reader, through their company Private School Interactive.

Although the original idea for these programs occurred in Brad's basement in 1987, Conestoga now has non-commercial versions of them.

PS Author allows teachers to develop, or author, their own computer-based training (CBT) materials, while PS Reader distributes the CBT material to the students.

Authoring software is already available but the Nelsons said their PS Author program is specifically geared towards teachers.

"Our teachers are specifically designing educational programs," said Brad. "They are not designing a game or something for general public consumption. So our authoring program lets the teacher create courseware specifically for education. And as a result, it has tools in it designed for teachers."

Upon completion of the courseware, Brad said, students can then review the material using PS Reader. "They can go through the material sequentially or they can randomly search through the

material and study it. And at the end, if the teacher has included test questions inside the private school module, they can answer the test questions and get the results."

A unique feature of PS Reader is that it watches what the student is doing, and then adapts itself to match the students learning style. "It's constantly evolving itself," said Nancy. She said the program will determine if you are a text-based learner or a graphic-based learner and then present the information in an order best suited to your learning style.

Aside from the presentation of the material, PS Reader also judges the speed of your learning. "It keeps track of how quickly you're moving through the material and will adapt. If it recognizes the fact that you're always going back to reread things or you're taking a lot longer than an 'average' student, then it will drop itself down to an easier reading level," Nancy said.

Initially, Brad said, he expects teachers to start off by putting text and some small photographs onto a PS Author module. "Then they can go back later, and the software is easy enough to edit, and add a video or larger picture to that page," Brad said. "And over time, the resources get more rich and they have more variety. That makes it more interesting to the students as it becomes a real multimedia experience."

Nancy said, "Ideally, whatever type of learner you are, there are



Nancy and Brad Nelson developed PS Author (on computer screen) to help instructors teach parts of their classes. Their other program, PS Readers, adapts itself to meet individual students' needs.

(Photo by Craig Vallbacka)

resources there to help you understand the material."

Brad and Nancy said the PS programs allow teachers to accommodate for the growing diversity of students and the larger class sizes. Brad said the program isn't designed to replace teachers, but to add "the computer as another tool that the teacher can rely on, and use amongst all the others, to get the information across to the students."

The use of PS Author is not difficult according to the Nelsons. Nancy, who used the programs in

her classrooms last semester, said she put modules together on Sunday night for her Monday morning classes. "From a teachers point of view," Brad said, "it takes about the same amount of time to put something together as it would to put together some nice looking handout notes."

Brad said teachers can use PS Author without too much formal training. "We figure it takes about half a day to show the structure and get people comfortable with it, and the other half a day for people to play with it and finish a piece of

software to say, 'Hey, I did it.'"

The Nelsons said their plan is to train a small number of teachers at the college and then let those teachers show other members of faculty how to use the program.

Nancy said she expects the lowest grade level using the program will be Grade 7, and also sees a potential use for the programs in industry.

The Nelsons said they are also working on increasing the number of resources on the programs, making them more appropriate to Windows95, and writing a book.

## On its way

## Internet lab to open in fall

By Craig Vallbacka

Conestoga's new Internet lab will be operational by September, according to Grant McGregor, college principal.

The lab will be a first for Conestoga, as Internet access from the school has been limited to continuing education courses and research-specific access in the Owen Lackenbauer Literacy Lab.

The Internet lab will be located in room 2A11-3, which is across the hall from the bookstore. McGregor said the lab is located there for two reasons; size and security.

"There is not a lot of room (at the college) to set up a 60-computer lab," McGregor said. "And it's also fairly close to where we're keeping the rest of our labs. If they're in that same area, it's easier to monitor from a safety and security standpoint."

McGregor said safety and security of the Internet lab will be reviewed by the safety committee, but the college is examining the use of television monitors.

Aside from Internet access, McGregor said the lab will also provide students with e-mail accounts.

However, access to the lab will not be available to every student, he said. "This (lab) is reserved for full-time day students who

pay the full technology fee."

McGregor said Internet access for Continuing Education students will probably be during specific evenings in the week in another lab. The reason for the difference in availability he said, is because of the limited number of computers in the lab, and the lower technology fee which continuing education students pay.

"If they're in that same area, it's easier to monitor from a safety and security standpoint."

Grant McGregor,  
college principal

To accompany the opening of the lab, students will also receive personal identification numbers to log onto the computers. McGregor said these numbers should be issued to students in September, and without them students can't gain access to the computers in the lab.

McGregor described the computers in the lab as being "basically full multimedia." The only exception to full multimedia is that students will have to purchase headphones if they want sound.

The computers themselves are nearly top-of-the-line, McGregor said. "They're 166 MHz, MMX

computers with 32 megs of ram, and a 2.1 gig hard drive. Every second one will have a SyQuest drive. They also have 15-inch monitors and CD-ROM drives." In simple terms this means they are fast and powerful.

He said the lab will have its own dedicated server, which costs between \$10,000 and \$15,000 a year, and will use Netscape Gold 3 for Internet access. From here, students will have access to various search engines like Yahoo and Lycos.

One of the main reasons for the delayed opening of an Internet lab, McGregor said, is finances. Each of the 60 work stations costs about \$2,100. However, he said the college has also had to make major changes to its computer systems.

Included in these changes was the recent upgrade in phone lines to a "T1 line." The T1 line, which costs \$70,000 a year, was necessary to accommodate the amount of information that Internet access can generate. The college also had to upgrade its virus protection software, a cost which McGregor estimated at \$22,000.

McGregor said the labs hours of operation will probably be the same as the other computer labs. However, that, and a number of other concerns about the lab, will be decided by an ad hoc site committee.

## OSAP gives parents a break, takes away right to appeal

By Ellen Douglas

Until recently, if parents said they could not afford to chip in on the cost of their children's education they could appeal. But the old rule has changed, said Conestoga's financial aid officer.

The Ontario Student Assistant Program (OSAP) has taken away the privilege of the family inability appeal, said Carol Walsh. In place of the appeal, the program has reduced the amount parents are expected to contribute.

Under the old rules, parents who earned \$50,000 to \$60,000 gross income per year could appeal their expected contribution, said Walsh. The expected contribution is based on parents' gross income, minus a tax allowance and minus a moderate standard of living allowance.

Walsh said the moderate standard of living allowance depends on the number of dependants in the family, and the number of dependants attending post-secondary school.

Parents in the \$70,000 to \$80,000 per year gross-income bracket are still expected to make a considerable contribution, said Walsh. However, parents who make less than \$40,000 per year are generally not required to make a contribution.

The reason for the change in rules, said Walsh, is that an annual income of \$50,000 to \$60,000 used to be considered high, so the

expected contribution was higher. However, \$50,000 to \$60,000 doesn't go as far as it used to, so the expected contribution has been decreased.

But what happens to a student if their parents refuse to pay the expected contribution?

Walsh said the program does not accept appeals based on arbitrary refusal.

"Appeals are only accepted if they are based on some kind of family breakdown, such as abuse," said Walsh. "When we sit down with the parents and explain the situation, in most cases they will co-operate."

Walsh said she only has about one case per year where the parents refuse to divulge any personal information. In a case like this, financial aid would direct the student to a bank, such as the Scotia Bank, where student loans do not require a co-signer.

"We would do everything we could to work with the student and their family to resolve issues before it even got to that stage," she said.

Walsh said the changes to OSAP were mentioned in the Globe and Mail newspaper, but are still not widely known.

"Students in second and third year are generally well informed, because they've been through the process before," she said. "In first year it's still a learning game and it can be intimidating."



## Now hear this...



Sean Rogers, a worker with physical resources, installs the first speakers of a new public-address system at Conestoga, on the fourth floor near the Spoke office on July 3.  
(Photo by Bob Puersten)

## WLU drug plan has extended benefits, lacks DSA's coverage of birth control

By Tim Kylie

Students at Conestoga College and Wilfrid Laurier University (WLU) pay similar fees for separate drug plans from the same company, but coverage differs in the area of birth control pills, extended benefits and maximum benefit payments available.

Meaghan Brown, WLU students' union vice-president of university affairs, said students at Laurier have been satisfied with their drug plan over the past two years, but added that more than one-third have opted-out of the plan because they already had similar coverage with another plan.

Out of 5,200 full-time students, about 2,000 opt out of the plan each year, she said.

Vicki Lichty, the Doon Student Association's (DSA) administrative assistant, said the majority of Doon campus' full-time students have stayed in the student drug plan in each of the past two years.

But the exact figure of how many kept the plan in 1996-97 is not available because some students are still opting out, said DSA vice-president of operations Johanna Stevens.

Full-time Laurier students paid \$84.41, including provincial sales tax, in each of the past two years for a prescription drug plan with RWAM Insurance Administrators Inc.

The WLU students' union will continue the plan in 1997-98 with no fee increase, she added.

Full-time Conestoga students will pay \$83.34, including provincial sales tax, for a new drug plan with RWAM that starts in September.

Both plans operate from September 1997 to August 1998, pay 80 per cent of the cost of prescription drugs, include out-of-country emergency medical insurance and make family

coverage available for an additional fee — another \$83.34 with the Conestoga plan.

There are several significant differences between the two plans.

An information sheet about the Laurier plan says it includes "extended health benefits" for chiropractic, podiatry, naturopathy, therapeutic massage, acupuncture, speech therapy, physiotherapy, psychiatry, and medical equipment, such as hearing aids or orthopedic shoes. The benefits for these services are each capped at \$500 per year, the sheet says.

Similar extended health benefits are not included on an information sheet about the DSA drug plan provided by DSA vice president of student affairs Gerry Cleaves, although a discount of up to 20 per cent on eye wear with PVS Vision Services is listed.

However, the DSA's plan pays for birth control pills, which is not covered by the Laurier plan.

Brown said the WLU students' union chose not to include birth control pills because their students can purchase it through Laurier's health services at \$5 to \$10 per package, and can buy four packages for the price of three.

Cleaves said the DSA could have

chosen a cheaper drug plan that did not include birth control pills, but instead decided it was important to provide the service.

The DSA's plan covers the cost of prescription drugs to a maximum claim of \$2,000 per person. Brown said there is no maximum with the Laurier drug plan, but its extended health coverage services have maximum payments.

She said the only problem with the plan at Laurier so far has been the time it takes to process benefit cheques for students.

It can take three or four weeks from the time a student submits a claim until receiving a cheque, she said.

Under the DSA plan, students don't have to submit a claim but instead use a pay-direct system that allows them to purchase drugs by paying only 20 per cent of the cost up front. To use the pay-direct system, students must present their student cards, which will have a sticker attached if they are in the plan, to the pharmacist.

Although the Laurier plan is also a pay-direct system, students who purchase drugs without a drug card issued by the WLU students' union must submit a claim, the information sheet says.

### A tale of two drug plans

#### DSA Health Plan

- ☛ pays 80 per cent of the cost of prescribed drugs — up to \$2,000 per year
- ☛ PVS Vision Services discount — up to 20 per cent on eye wear
- ☛ includes oral contraceptives

#### WLU Students' Union Health Plan

- ☛ pays 80 per cent of the cost of prescribed drugs — no maximum payment
- ☛ benefits for chiropractic, podiatry, naturopathy, therapeutic massage, acupuncture, speech therapy, physiotherapy, psychology — up to \$500 per year

## Spirit and determination guarantee success, says Conestoga graduate

By Shawn Leonard

Success is pretty much guaranteed to any student with an outgoing spirit and a determination to succeed, said an alumnus of the graphic design and advertising program at Conestoga College.

Allan Ramsay, who graduated from the program in 1972, is the president of Ramsay and Associates Advertising Ltd. and has won numerous professional awards. He credits his accomplishments to his education at Conestoga.

"I know a lot of people who came into the field of desktop publishing by just buying a computer," said Ramsay. "I've had an advantage over them because of the fundamentals and the building blocks that I have learned here."

He said that recent graduates have a good chance at success in their chosen field because now it is easier to start a home-based business or become a freelancer.

"It is easier because of computers," said Ramsay. "I know how much of an impact they have had on our business, and the new computers coming into Conestoga offer a whole new era for the students."

Ramsay said that 25 years ago, when he started at Conestoga,

"I've had an advantage over them (others in his field) because of the fundamentals and the building blocks that I have learned here."

Allan Ramsay,  
graphic design and  
advertising graduate

the current bookstore was not even open yet. He said that the bookstore was just a trailer besides a gravel road.

He said that even in those conditions the education was still top-notch.

He said that students in graphic design and advertising will have to look for

jobs that are more skill-related and will have to depend on their portfolio.

"It is not like graduating with a general arts and science degree where everyone comes out essentially the same," said Ramsay. "From this program, the student comes out with a portfolio that shows if they are any good or not. Good people will always get good jobs."

## DSA Used Textbook Sale August 25 - 28

Do you have textbooks to sell?  
You could have them sold at the  
DSA Used Textbook Sale

**Textbook Drop off Dates**  
Drop off your textbooks to the DSA Office  
April 28 to August 15

No books will be accepted after August 15

More information available at  
the DSA Office or call 748-5131





# perspective SPOKE

## Truth can be stranger than fiction



On the night of July 2, 1947, something smashed into a rancher's field outside of Roswell, N.M. What you think that was depends upon who you are willing to believe.

The U.S. air force said, in a recent report released on the verge of the 50th Anniversary of the "Roswell Incident," the crash debris was weather balloons, equipment used to detect Soviet nuclear bomb tests and crash test dummies.

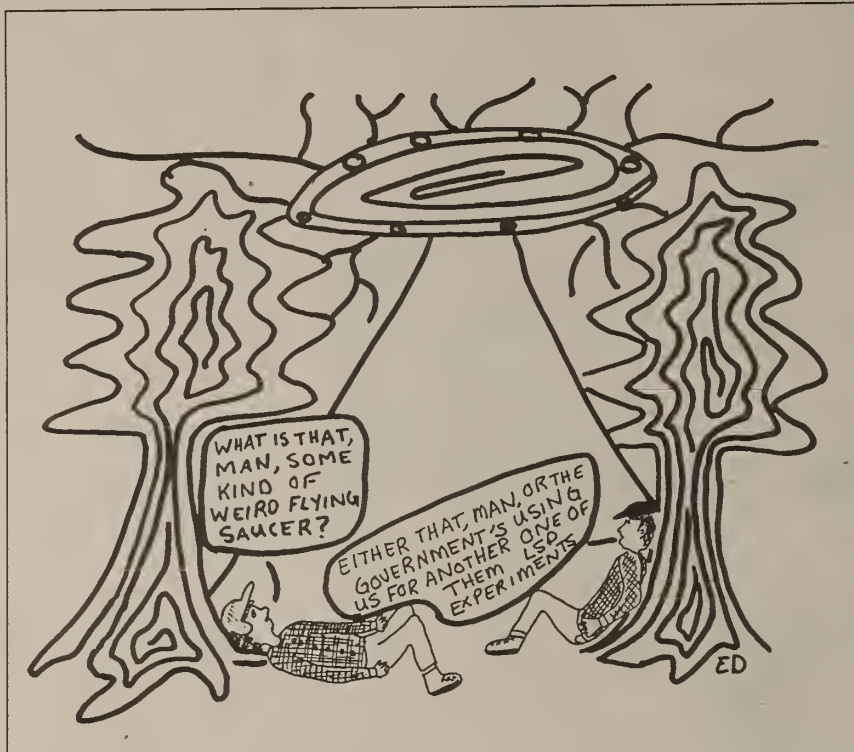
Many people, including eye witnesses to the aftermath of the crash 50 years ago, believe an alien flying saucer fell from the sky that night; and that the government, for whatever reason, has been covering up the facts ever since; and that the debris, including alien bodies, were spirited away to an air force research facility.

The Roswell Incident has been the focus of discussion on numerous news programs over the week of July 2. Time magazine devoted its cover story to the incident.

What all of this discussion makes clear is that a majority of Americans, almost a full two-thirds, do not believe what their own air force is telling them about what happened five decades ago.

What is conspicuously absent in these discussions is that U.S. air force had issued a press release within a week of the event in 1947 which said that the U.S. government had recovered "a crashed flying disk."

Also absent from the discussion is the nature of the debris which was recovered. Witnesses claim to have seen eye beams with alien symbols on them and mysterious foil which unfolded uncreased when



crumpled and dropped. Some even contend that the U.S. air force has tried to build their own flying saucer using the technology retrieved in 1947.

In the decades which followed the Roswell Incident, numerous conspiracies have surfaced involving the U.S. government, the armed forces and the CIA.

There are conspiracy theories surrounding the death of former president John F. Kennedy, presidential candidate Robert Kennedy and civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

The CIA was reported to have conducted experiments using LSD on American and Canadian civilians during the '60s. The U.S. armed forces were, reportedly, exposed to chemical weapons during the

Gulf War.

Of the above list of conspiracies, the CIA LSD tests have recently been admitted to and information continues to come out regarding the exposure of U.S. forces in Iraq to poisonous gas. Even the Kennedy and King assassinations are being looked at in recent years.

So, while at the 50th Anniversary of the Roswell Incident the debate over what happens continues, perhaps the past gives clues to the future.

Might we, early in the 21st century hear an admission of a cover-up by the U.S. government in the Roswell Incident?

Equally bizarre conspiracies have been proven true. So, who knows?

## Toplessness doesn't mean equal rights

Reading the Kitchener-Waterloo Record the other day, I came across an article which really bothered me. It was about a man from Kitchener who was in court because he had been charged with beating his wife.

Basically, what happened was that when the woman told her husband she didn't want to have sex with him, he hit her on the back of her legs with a belt. When she attempted to call the police, the man unplugged the telephone. Eventually the police were summoned and the man fled, later to be caught.

Upon sentencing, the judge (who, incidentally, was a man) said he decided to give the man probation instead of a jail term because the woman wasn't really hurt and the incident sounded worse than it really was.

How can being hit with a belt not be as bad as it sounds? Is the judge saying that because the woman didn't require stitches or end up with broken legs that she wasn't a victim of wife assault? Personally, I don't see the difference.

On the next page in the Record was an article about a British Columbia man who had killed his wife by stabbing her 47 times with a knife.

Although he was sentenced to four years in jail (which in itself seems to be a very light sentence for taking someone's life) he is now, less than two years after the murder, being transferred to a halfway house where he will essentially have his freedom returned to him, as he will be allowed out on day parole.

What really bothers me about this is that no one seems to be making any serious efforts to stop men from beating women or to ensure that, when this atrocity does occur, abusers are given tougher sentences.

### Women promoting toplessness as a means of equality should look at what it's going to get them.

The big issue right now for women who call themselves feminists is toplessness. They are making a huge fuss about wanting to be allowed to appear in public without their shirts on so they can be equal to men. In the meantime, they are ignoring the real issues that are hindering equality between the sexes.

Going around without a top on is not going to bring us any closer to what women through the century have been fighting for, if men are allowed to continue beating and controlling women and then avoiding punishment for their actions because a male judge said it wasn't as bad as it sounded.

Women who are promoting toplessness as a means of equality should look at what it's going to get them — a lot of men jeering at them and no strap marks when they are suntanning. This doesn't in any way increase their standing in society.

However, if they were to shout as loudly about the fact that men continue to abuse women, they could help make progress on a real issue which is slowing women's right to equality.



## Don't fall into the generation gap

Many people are involved with an elderly or terminally ill person at least once in their lifetime.

This experience can be saddening in the case of the terminally ill, or enlightening in the case of the elderly.

The elderly in our community have reams of life experiences, funny stories and personal touches to contemporary history.

Where else could we experience, nearly first hand, the Great Depression, the Second World War, and local histories.

Slices of the human experience are living and breathing right at the nursing home down the street.



Why is it that the elderly are not always valued, but rather considered to be analogous with the terminally ill?

The elderly are often perceived as the "soon-to-be-dead" who serve no purpose to our fast, rodent-paced lives.

We grow impatient as they leisurely count their change at the check out. We curse and quickly pass when they drive or walk too slowly.

But we are racing past and roughly bumping grandma and grandpa. Some of us are able to reserve special places in our hearts for our parents' parents, but we are not able to transfer that love and respect to elderly strangers.

This failure to extend ourselves has pitiable repercussions for both young and old.

I experienced this sad consequence firsthand when my politeness was mistaken for impatience.

The elderly man I was serving quickly grouped me into that unfortunate collection of young people who blatantly disrespect the elderly.

He loudly proclaimed to me, "You young people are all the same!" And, maybe in some ways, we are, but this man was not just a "grumpy old geezer." He had been hurt or disrespected by someone, evidently, in my age group.

He then spouted that were he 25 years younger, I would treat him with respect. In that moment there was no way the scars of others' sticks and stones could be erased by my simple explanations.

What a pathetic state for us to be in.

When we allow the generation gap to rob us of potentially satisfying human contact we not only lose unique life experiences, but we rob others and ourselves of dignity and respect.



Drop us a line.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.



SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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## A tribute by any other name



A climbing rose bush was planted in front of Conestoga College's Waterloo campus building July 4 by students and the teacher of the academic upgrading class in memory of June Dahmer, a former employee who died June 23.

Susan Kellock, the class teacher (pictured), said Dahmer always did a lot for the people in the class.

Dahmer worked in student services at the Waterloo campus, beginning in 1968, after her graduation from the clerk/typist program at Conestoga.

Dahmer died of cancer after a 13-year battle with the disease.

(Photo by Pat Craton)

## A private little graduation

# Focus for change graduates celebrate in simple ceremony



The graduates from the focus for change program, July 4 — From left: Patricia Bailey, Elaine Young, Bernie Wilson (class instructor), Karen Fisher, Soccoro Merino, Charlene MacKnight, Valerie Kelly, Noy Pathamvavong, Debbie Cox (co-ordinator of the focus for change program), Michelle Pelkey, Carolyn Sanders. The piñata hanging from the ceiling was made by Merino.

(Photo by Pat Craton)

By Pat Craton

Nine women in the focus for change program held their own graduation exercise July 4 at the Waterloo campus of Conestoga College.

Although the graduation exercise lacked the pomp and circumstance of the college's convocation ceremonies the week before, it was not lacking in emotion or pride.

The graduation certificates presented to each member of the class were made up by the women themselves, who drew names to determine who they made a certificate for.

Debbie Cox, co-ordinator of the focus for change program, said the program is one step towards a long-term goal for women. She said when she first saw this group she did not see the same light in their eyes as she sees now.

At least four of the women are planning on returning in September to enter the second phase of the program which is the upgrading of academic skills in math and English to prepare them for entry into college.

Valerie Kelly, one of the graduates, said she first heard of the program in 1995 but could not enter then because she had "personal barriers to overcome." She said she felt comfortable in the program and was able to make friends. She had the opportunity of job shadowing at the front office of the Waterloo campus. Her future plan is to get into business management at the college after upgrading her academic skills.

Another graduate who found the program helpful is Patricia Bailey. Bailey, who arrived in Canada over a year ago from Jamaica, said focus for change gave her confi-

dence. "I can stand on my feet more firmly."

Bailey hopes to get into fashion design and if that does not work out, she would like to be a dress-maker. Like Kelly, she plans on upgrading her academic skills in September.

The class had an international flavor to it as, along with Bailey, there was a graduate from Laos and another from El Salvador.

The graduation ceremony was followed by a pot luck lunch which was enjoyed by the graduates, their friends and children. Bernie Wilson, who taught the class, was present to congratulate the graduates.

Focus for change is a program funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services to assist single women with children on social assistance in planning their future direction.

## Retirement

# Security guard thanked for five years of service



CLOCKING OUT — Ed Mather, retired security guard at Conestoga's Waterloo campus, shows off the clock he received on his last day of work June 25.

(Photo by Pat Craton)

By Pat Craton

Ed Mather, a former security guard at the Waterloo campus of Conestoga College, received a surprise on June 25 when he arrived at work.

Staff members at the campus presented Mather with a farewell gift of a clock on his last day of work at the college.

Mather was the regular full-time head of security at Waterloo campus for the past five years. He is moving back to Toronto.

Mather and his wife moved to Waterloo to be with their only child, Bramwell, when he was a student at the University of Waterloo. Now that Bramwell has graduated and is working in Toronto, there is no reason to be in Waterloo because all his family and close friends are in Toronto, Mather said. Even so, Mather said he would definitely miss the Waterloo campus.

Norma Lowndes, a staff member, presented Mather with the gift on behalf of the staff.

## Corrections

A name was misspelled in the July 7 issue of Spoke on page 12. Julie McLean is the correct spelling. The CD *Stick it in Your Mouth* was incorrectly attributed in the headline to the review in the July 7 issue of Spoke on page 12. It was recorded by Akinyele.

# The Sanctuary

## Summer Hours

Monday - Thursday 7 am - 7 pm

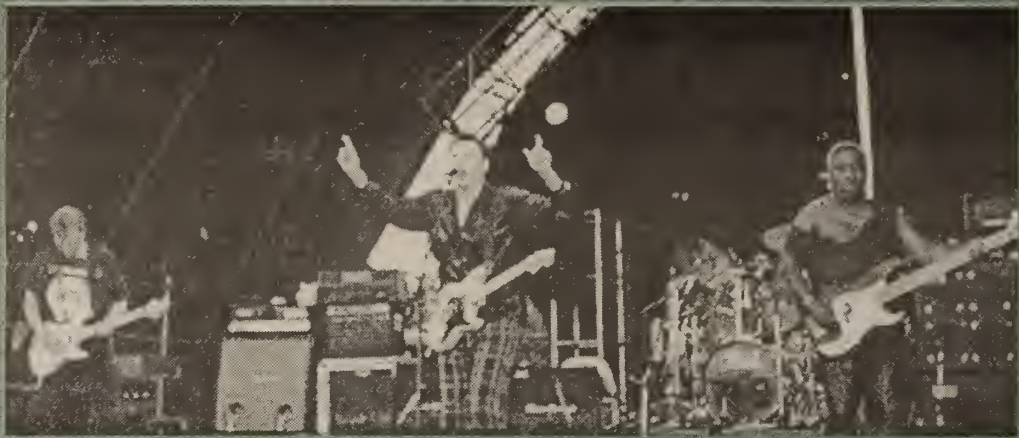
Fridays 7 am - 5 pm

Closed on Weekends



Stop by for a game of pool or watch TV during your lunch break  
If you have any suggestions for activities for the summer  
students stop by the DSA Office and let us know!





Big Country are caught in the act in their homeland of Scotland. From left — Bruce Watson, Stuart Adamson and Tony Butler. Mark Brzezicki is hidden behind his drumkit.

### CD review

## Big Country is making big sound in music scene

By Ian S. Palmer

Paul McCartney started the live acoustic album craze about seven years ago when he recorded *Unplugged* for MTV. Many others, such as Rod Stewart and Eric Clapton, have followed suit and cashed in with enormous sales on rearranged versions of their songs.

But, surprisingly, some of the better acoustic CDs have been produced by rockers such as Kiss and Golden Earring.

We can now add Scotland's Big Country to that list with the release of *Eclectic*, recorded in London, England, in 1996.

For some unknown reason, Big Country have been virtually ignored by the masses in North America since their huge bagpipe-sounding, guitar-driven single, "In a Big Country," was released in 1984.

*Eclectic* is a collection of 13 original and cover tunes played with so much energy it's hard to tell it's an acoustic set.

The band is joined by guest vocalists and musicians throughout, giving it a party atmosphere.

Stuart Adamson, lead vocals and acoustic guitar, Mark

Brzezicki, drums and vocals, Tony Butler, acoustic bass and vocals, and Bruce Watson, acoustic guitar and mandolin, are joined by Bobby Valentino on violin, Aaron Emerson on piano and the Hossam Ramzy percussion section, which gained prominence on Page and Plant's *Unleaded* CD.

The guests complement the quartet's hard-driving beat nicely, giving them a much fuller sound than on past studio efforts.

*Eclectic* is divided into three parts, with the band opening with their own songs, followed by a set of superb covers, then being wrapped up with a couple of more originals.

The CD ends with a rousing encore of the Rolling Stones' "Ruby Tuesday."

The standout tracks are "Buffalo Skinners," a slower number on which Adamson's soulful vocals shine, "Where The Rose Is Sown," "King of Emotion," an upbeat version of Bruce Springsteen's "I'm On Fire" and "Ruby Tuesday."

Valentino's violin playing is excellent throughout, whereas Emerson's keyboard work isn't quite as noticeable.

One song stands out above the

rest, however, and ironically it is sung by guest vocalist Carol Laula. It's a smoking version of Joni Mitchell's "Big Yellow Taxi." The Moroccan percussion section gives it a definite North African sound, and Laula's vocals are so much stronger than Mitchell's. Big Country's backing vocals turn this song into an instant classic.

They also steamroll through covers of Robbie Robertson's "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down," and the Beatles' "Eleanor Rigby," giving the songs a boost of energy lacking on the original versions.

Overall it is an excellent collection from one of the hardest working bands around.

Adamson is still one of the premier vocalists and songwriters in the business, and through maturity the group is actually more entertaining than it was in 1984.

The only problem with this CD is it's too short as it clocks in at about 50 minutes.

Big Country hope to get some well-deserved airplay in the U.S.

This collection, along with the rest of the band's work, proves they belong there.

### CD review

## New Mrs. Torrance is worth a listen

By Corey Jubenville

From the local scene, the latest offering from Mrs. Torrance is a CD called *Porn*. The band, based out of Toronto, recently played at Mrs. Robinson's in Kitchener and continues to tour.

The first song, also called *Porn*, has some standard drumming by Steve Pitkin and relatively little base. It does feature a wailing guitar solo by Simon Nixon, but the highlight is the strong voice of Tamara Williamson.

Williamson has the ability to project a powerful sound, not unlike that of Cranberries singer Delores O'Riordan.

Williamson, who also plays some guitar on the six-song CD, also helped produce the last song,

Cut me up.

However, the songs tend to lose their dynamism and become monotonous unless Williamson and Nixon crank it up.

This is where the voice of Williamson can make or break a song, and her importance to the band becomes evident. I found this a problem with songs like "Cut me up" and "Safe."

On tracks like "Wish" and "Melt," where Williamson uses her voice in a strong manner, her strength is reflected in the quality of the songs.

Liner notes suggest the band is expected to release another CD called *I'm the bird soon*.

The group shows potential to become a serious musical presence and may be worth a listen.

### CD review

## OK Computer better than okay

By L. Scott Nicholson

The five lads from Oxford, England's Radiohead, have followed their once-every-two-year release pattern with their third CD, *OK Computer*.

*OK Computer* follows the band's first release in 1993 of *Pablo Honey* and their second release in 1995 of *The Bends*.

If who shows up at your concerts is any measure of success, Radiohead have reached super stardom, as the likes of U2's Bono and REM's Michael Stipe were recently seen at a Radiohead concert held in New York City, according to MuchMusic.

Bono and Stipe are not the only two enjoying Radiohead's new release.

Although slightly different from the previous two CDs, *OK Computer* is better than *OK*. It's great.

Radiohead's newer sound is possibly a sign of maturity. Although not entirely absent, the loud, sharp guitar riffs evident in most songs of the past are not as apparent. Songs from *OK Computer* are more likely to feature pleasant acoustic guitars or slow piano pieces.

As the title of the CD suggests, the music on this compilation has a spacy, futuristic, next-millennium feel about it. Titles like "Paranoid Android," "Airbag," "Subterranean Homesick Alien" lend evidence to the suggestion.

The music is also reminiscent of Pink Floyd, Queen, and Rush, suggesting it has both aspects of alternative and classical composition. It is perhaps why Rolling Stone magazine called *OK Computer*, "a stunning art-rock tour de force."

The "art-rock" notion is best exemplified in the first release

from *OK Computer*, "Paranoid Android." The song, unusually long at just over six minutes, features four parts.

The first section is very mellow with acoustic guitar and dainty synthesizer music to the sounds of lead singer Thom Yorke pleading to his listener, "I'm trying to get some rest from all the unborn chicken voices in my head."

The second part of the song becomes much more heavy and angry with heavy bass, loud electric guitar and Yorke yelling "You don't remember my name, off with his head man."

The third portion of the song slows down again with acoustic guitar and heavenly angelic voices singing, "God loves his children."

The fourth part of the song balances the struggle between loud and quiet, good and evil with a flurry of chaotic, screaming guitars.

The apparent underlying conflict in the first release, seems to be a conflict that Yorke is also living with. Some of the lyrics make the listener question if Thom Yorke is a British Kurt Cobain. Like Cobain, Yorke is a small, frail man who, based on physical appearance alone, must have been the brunt of many a joke during his formative school years.

Some of Yorke's lyrics will also raise some eyebrows. On "Subterranean Homesick Alien," Yorke sings, "I wish they'd (aliens) swoop down... Take me on board their beautiful ship."

True, Radiohead is not the Spice Girls or the Back Street Boys with glamorous looks and peppy dance tunes. But they are definitely a thinking person's band. Get *OK Computer*, sit in a dark room, put on headphones and allow the mind to wander with Yorke. Enjoy the music for all it is worth.

### CD review

## ... And Then There Was Bass is sure to pack the dance floor

By Corey Jubenville

This collection of music focuses on the music genre known as "bass". For those of you who don't know what bass music is, think of it as a dance song combined with rap. Of course, the bass is loud and omnipresent.

These songs were made to be danced to. Not slow romantic dancing or groovy hip-hop dancing, but fast, urban, shake your booty type music. Actually, one of the songs by N.C. and Kid Money is called "Wall 2 Wall Booty."

The 15 song disc was put together

by executive producer Tony Mercedes and co-produced with Kawan "KP" Prather on Laface records. In Canada it is distributed by BMG Music.

I don't think, however, that this CD will do very well in Canada. This music comes from black, urban America, and rarely gets out to places like mainstream Canada.

Its appeal to Canadians, who are either unaware or unfamiliar with this genre, will probably be limited.

However, if you are into bass music, you will probably enjoy some of these selection like the

remix of "Get Ready" by Southsyde B.O.I.Z. or "Make a Playa Rich" by J.T. Money.

The bass moves the songs along at a constant tempo and the lyrics fly at you fast and furiously.

Many of the songs use the base to give context to the lyrics and define the rhythm of the songs.

One of the weaknesses of this collection is the monotony of the beats.

Virtually all of the songs have the same, repetitive beat. A little more variety would be nice.

But, if bass music is your thing, give *...And Then There Was Bass* a try.



## Movie review

## Face/Off set to take off this summer

By Anita Filevski

With the combined star power of Academy Awards nominee John Travolta (*Pulp Fiction*, *Broken Arrow*) and Oscar winner Nicolas Cage (*Leaving Las Vegas*, *The Rock*), high-tech action thriller *Face/Off* is sure to put a crimp in the summer plans of sequels such as *Speed 2: Cruise Control*, and *Batman and Robin*.

Travolta plays the charismatic Sean Archer, head of an FBI anti-terrorist unit. Archer is a man obsessed — for the past eight years, he has been tracking sociopath Castor Troy (Cage). Troy is responsible for numerous bombings and murders, but Archer's involvement in catching him is much more personal — Troy murdered Archer's five-year-old son, Michael, eight years ago.

The movie reunites Travolta with renowned filmmaker John Woo (*Broken Arrow*, *The Killer*), and is full of Woo's trademark action sequences. Many scenes, such as when Cage gets out of a car at the airport and his trenchcoat flies up in the wind, are set to loud, orchestra-like music to emphasize the fluidity of the movement.

And yet *Face/Off* offers something more for action fans: an intense bond develops between hero and villain as Archer and Troy temporarily switch identities and take on each other's jobs and friends.

This switch occurs after Archer catches and kills Troy, only to find

out that he's planted a bomb somewhere in downtown Los Angeles. Although Archer has already promised his wife Tony Award winner Joan Allen (*Nixon*, *The Crucible*) that his obsession with Troy is over, he decides he needs to do one last thing before he can let it go: he needs to infiltrate a maximum security prison and get Troy's paranoid schizophrenic brother, Pollux, played by Alessandro Nivola (*Inventing the Abbotts*), to tell him the location of the bomb.

Pollux, still mourning the death of his brother, refuses to co-operate with the FBI. He considers the bomb his brother's living legacy, and thus, Archer is forced to take a more drastic approach.

Then comes one of the most interesting, and somewhat out-there, plot twists.

After his run-in with Archer, Troy is legally dead, although his body is hooked up to machines which still keep him breathing. Through advanced medical technology, Archer undergoes an operation which gives him Troy's actual face.

Movie-goers witness the operation, as doctors cut off Archer's face and preserve it in saline drip so they can put it back later. They then cut off Troy's face and transplant it onto Archer's body. Archer's reaction to physically becoming his own enemy is phenomenal and at the same time, heart-wrenching.

But now comes the hard part:



Nicholas Cage (left) and John Travolta in a scene from the movie *Face/Off*.

Archer must become the sadistic terrorist-for-hire he has been chasing for the last eight years, and he must do it convincingly.

Archer enters the prison, starts a riot, and befriends the suspicious Pollux, who tests him with questions about their past to make sure he is really his brother. Once he's satisfied that he's really Troy, Pollux slips up in conversation and reveals to Archer the location of the bomb. Armed with actual proof, Archer seems overjoyed with the brilliance of his plan, that is, until Troy suddenly awakes from his coma without a face.

Upon discovering himself this way, Troy quickly gets his friends together and they confront the doctor who performed the surgery.

Eventually, Troy emerges as Archer, the only face available.

The rest of the movie showcases the talents of Travolta and Cage, and their amazing ability to mimic each other's mannerisms, speech and facial expressions.

Suddenly, the audience is treated to a collective acting experience, one in which Travolta and Cage have jointly created the characters' impressions and personalities. Each actor shows the struggle between the elements of good and evil within a person in an intense and believable way. Woo considers this inner conflict as symbolic of human nature, a theme prevalent in his previous work.

However, the most overpowering thing about *Face/Off*'s the ex-

cessiveness of the action sequences. Although most of them are thrilling and seem almost choreographed at times, many of them are overdone, to the point where reality seems far behind. Pay particular attention to the boat scene near the end.

How do both characters wind up being thrown on land within metres of each other after a violent boat crash?

On the whole, this first time pairing of Travolta and Cage is, on its own, already enough to get audiences into theatres. But therein lies an extra treat: *Face/Off*'s plot is original, its music is powerful, and its visual imagery is more appealing than any action flick that's come around in a long time.

## Movie review

Men in Black out of this world  
A blend of humor, science fiction and good acting

By Lynn Jackson

The much anticipated *Men in Black* gives the alien theme a new twist, and adds lots of laughs.

Expected to be a summer blockbuster, *Men in Black* (or MiB for short) features Tommy Lee Jones (*Batman Forever*, *Volcano*) as secret Agent K and Will Smith (*Bad Boys*, *Independence Day*) as a New York City cop turned secret agent.

Centred in New York City, the agency, with the same name as the movie, is a top-secret operation which monitors aliens, disguised as humans, living on earth.

A veteran of the agency, Agent K takes Smith, who later becomes Agent J, under his wing to show him the inner workings of the agency. Having discovered plot to assassinate high-ranking space ambassadors, J and K must track down the alien aggressor and catch him before it's too late.

The basis for *MiB* lies in the popular '70s Marvel comic book, written by Lowell Cunningham, which features two stylish

agents, wearing black suits and dark sunglasses, battling aliens on earth.

Though the comic was more violent in nature, the movie version is meant to generate laughs.

As a comedic team, Jones and Smith play off each other well as Jones' Agent K is the by-the-book, no-nonsense character while Smith's agent J offers a constant barrage of his trademark one-liners.

Another comical aspect is the revealing of celebrities who are aliens living on earth, a list that includes Sylvester Stallone, Dennis Rodman and, of course, Elvis. "He's not dead," says Agent K, "he just went home."

With director Barry Sonnenfeld (*Get Shorty*, *The Addams Family*) and executive producer Steven Spielberg, *MiB* offers a balanced mix of good acting and great special effects, though the special effects present in the movie are not used as much to "wow" members of the audience as they are to keep them laughing.

Making inventive uses of New York landmarks, Sonnenfeld features the Guggenheim

Museum, the old World's Fair grounds in Queens and the Battery Park vent room for the Holland tunnel.

Also making an appearance in *MiB* is Linda Fiorentino who plays the city's deputy medical examiner Dr. Laurel Weaver. Weaver becomes involved when she does an autopsy on what she assumes to be a dead human, only to discover he's missing quite a few vital organs.

In order to keep Weaver, and many others, unenlightened about the presence of aliens on earth, Agents K uses an ultra-modern memory zapper on her, keeping the alien secret safe once again.

Though a good portion of the movie is wildly original, especially the first half, toward the end the movie begins to take on the typical scenarios of many of Hollywood's action films where the good guys chase down the bad and in the end are victorious. *MiB*'s ending also leaves itself wide open for a sequel.

Although *MiB* is rated PG-13 for language and sci-fi violence, some of the gross-out scenes will not be to everyone's liking.

## Movie review

My Best Friend's Wedding  
will charm and delight

By Shawn Leonard

Despite some problems, *My Best Friend's Wedding* is a charming and delightful movie.

Julia Roberts stars as Julianne, a lonely restaurant critic who's trying to stop Michael, (Dermot Mulroney) her old college flame and the one she now realizes she's been in love with for nine years, from heading to the altar with a wide-eyed, upscale princess, (Cameron Diaz).

In *My Best Friend's Wedding*, you get to see Roberts do things that she has never done in other movies.

She lies, schemes and hatches cruel and humiliating plots.

One such plot included talking her rival into performing at a karaoke bar. Of course the poor girl can't sing.

Another, and more comical scheme, is pretending to be engaged to George, her gay editor (Rupert Everett).

Overall, she behaves very badly, and when her schemes backfire, she just comes up with more.

It is fairly easy to accept Roberts' disreputable antics since she has something here that she hasn't had in her movies in quite a while.

That is, she has her vibrance once again.

She is funny in this movie in a way she wasn't in *Everyone Says I Love You* or *Something to Talk About*.

Viewers feel that her deceptions are simply a means to an end, that all is fair in the game of love.

The movie only really fails in the chemistry between Roberts and Mulroney.

Mulroney seems to be a frat house slickster, jerky and smug, and it's never too clear or convincing why he would be the object of Roberts' character's obsession.

Everett's character is welcome whenever he is on screen.

By now, the saintly gay friend is a cliché worthy of retirement, but Everett, pretending to be Julianne's fiancé, underplays his characterization so George comes off as very suave.

The trouble is his character isn't in the movie as much as he deserves.

*My Best Friend's Wedding* is in the witty and sparkling trend that recent romantic comedies, like *The Truth about Cats and Dogs* and *One Fine Day*, have taken. Roberts is the right star for it too, with her blend of radiance and agility.



# Woodworking class tackles gun cabinet, weathered benches

By Colleen Cassidy

Replications of antique gun cabinets and weathered benches have helped student put theory into practice at the woodworking centre.

Peter Findlay, an instructor in the woodworking centre, said last year he received a request for a gun cabinet in the style of the late 1800s from the curator of the William Lyon Mackenzie King house.

Findlay said there were five or six antique guns in the house and there was no place to display them.

Staff members looked for an original cabinet but were unable to find one of that era, he said.

In the 1800s, the guns would probably have been stored in a corner, but because of the concern about guns and the value of these particular guns, it was decided a cabinet would be necessary, Findlay said.

He said he teaches a course called The History of Furniture, and thought this project would be beneficial to his students.

Findlay said the cabinet was designed in the style of Charles Eastlake, an architect and designer of the Victorian era who was "a reactionary against the overdesigned and overdrawn style of that period."

He said the cabinet is a Gothic design and is built of solid walnut.

Findlay said that some of the designing was done on Auto Cad.

"If they had the machine, they would have used it back then," he said.

## UW benches restored

Findlay said it was also a learning experience for his class when two benches owned by the University of Waterloo were being restored.

The benches were donated to the university by one of the professors, and they have been exposed to the elements for a long time, Findlay said.

He said when he first showed the benches to his students, who were learning about the preservation of wood, they suggested the benches "should be burned and

started over."

But while they studied and worked on the benches, the students learned what went wrong in the first place, why, and how to prevent the same problems in the

future, Findlay said.

He said the benches aren't yet completed but he is now putting the finishing touches on and they be completed sometime in July.

Findlay said he only teaches theory courses, so his classes aren't usually taught in the workshop, but when they were working on the gun cabinet and the benches, his students learned how the theory could be applied in practice.

# Woodworking centre receives requests from community for building projects

By Colleen Cassidy

There is no shortage of projects for Conestoga's woodworking students at the woodworking centre.

Mike McClements, chairman of the school of trades and technology, said people representing community groups often call the college asking if woodworking students would be interested in building, repairing or renovating something.

McClements said many of the projects are interesting, but there isn't enough time for the students to do them all.

He said an important factor to be considered before accepting a project is the course and program criteria.

"We need to ensure the projects will benefit the students and will meet the criteria for the course and program. We don't want the students just doing work for others that will not benefit them," McClements said.

Currently, McClements said, there are several

requests from the community asking for the students' assistance, including one from city council to build collapsible booths for a Christmas fund-raising project and one from the Homer Watson House to rebuild or renovate cottages used as artists' residences when the gallery was a school of fine arts.

As well, he said, there are about 12 requests from within the college.

He said the early childhood education centre needs a new sandbox for the playground and awards shields are needed for the upcoming Conestoga golf tournament. Both the school of health sciences and the school of business have made requests for display cases, he said.

McClements said among projects completed by the students are a cabinet requested by Waterloo regional police to house their archival artifacts and a gun rack requested for Woodside, the boyhood home of former Canadian prime minister William Lyon Mackenzie King.

# Early childhood education offers post-diploma program

By Helene Beaulieu

Since the summer of 1991, Conestoga has been offering a unique post-diploma program for early childhood educators.

Entitled the resource teacher program, it is offered in an intensive four-month format every summer. Prior to '91 it ran as a part-time evening program and took two years to complete.

According to Jean Busch, who has been co-ordinator of the program for five years, graduates of early childhood education (ECE) or child studies

who have experience working with pre-school children with special needs, come away from the program qualified to work in ECE integrated settings as resource teachers.

The program prepares students to work with children with physical, intellectual and behavioral developmental needs.

In the workforce, resource teachers facilitate and co-ordinate programs that work to incorporate children with special needs into regular pre-school programs. They also provide family support and act as advocates for the children and their families.

Conestoga is the only college in Ontario offering the all-summer alternative. Busch said she believes it is for this reason the program draws the attention of people from across the province.

Busch said the program is extremely intense and contains the equivalent course content of the original two-year program.

"They really hustle. If you miss a day of class, you might miss 20 per cent of the course content," said Busch.

The program offers courses, such

as developmental approaches, in which students are taught to look at children from a developmental perspective and consider the impact of the disability on their overall development. Issues in resource teaching looks at the current political and social issues that impact the role of the resource teacher.

"They (students) also do a course on working with families. They develop a greater understanding of family systems and the impact that the birth of a child with a disability has on that family system," said Busch.

From May until the middle of August, students are required to complete six regular courses and two 150-hour field placements.

Busch said placements allow students to work in both an integrated pre-school setting and in an agency, such as Family and Children's Services or K-W Habilitation, that works with families.

Busch said initiatives brought forth by the ministry of community and social services will provide employment opportunities for resource teachers.

"The ministry has made the commitment to put some dollars into prevention in child care," she said. "That includes programs that work at supporting families in order to prevent family break-up, social or behavioral issues from developing with children down the road."

Busch said there are usually between 20 and 28 students enrolled in the course. While the majority of the 20 students currently taking the course are from the K-W, Cambridge area, Busch said there are two women from Thunder Bay in the program and another from Sault Ste Marie.

## Canada eh!



Off campus — A convertible sports its patriotic colors in Ottawa July 1. (Photo by Lynn Jackson)

alumni

# Conestoga grads open controversial car wash

By Sarah Smith

Two Conestoga graduates have started a car wash in downtown Kitchener which is proving popular despite controversy.

Debbie Tastik and Pamela (who did not want her last name used) are the owners and operators of Baywash, a car wash located on Victoria Street, which opened June 21, the first day of summer.

Baywash is unique to the Kitchener area because it involves female attendants dressed in bikinis and T-shirts hand washing cars while loud music plays in the background. At \$16 for a 20-minute wash and \$18 for a wash and wax, the business has averaged 40 cars a day, said Tastik.

"Response has been great," she said. "We really haven't had any problems."

There are some who feel differently, however, such as Brian Caldwell of the Record, who wrote that the business was "blatantly based on sexual titillation"

in his newspaper column June 21. There was also a woman, said Tastik, who showed up at Baywash on the Friday before it opened to complain about the "disgusting" nature of the business.

"You're going to get that kind of response, adversity to the whole idea," said Tastik.

She and Pamela checked carefully into the city bylaws before going ahead with their particular type of car wash, she said.

"We did a lot of footwork with the city to make sure everything was right," said Tastik.

She said they intend to hire men as car washers, so people should have less reason to complain. Neither the men nor the women are allowed to work without tops because of government regulations against people appearing topless for commercial purposes.

"We're a clean business, we're legitimate," said Tastik.

She graduated as an esthetician and Pamela graduated as a legal

secretary from Conestoga in the spring of 1997 when they decided to become entrepreneurs in the car wash business.

Tastik said Pamela originally thought up the idea after sitting in a mechanized car wash which she found boring.

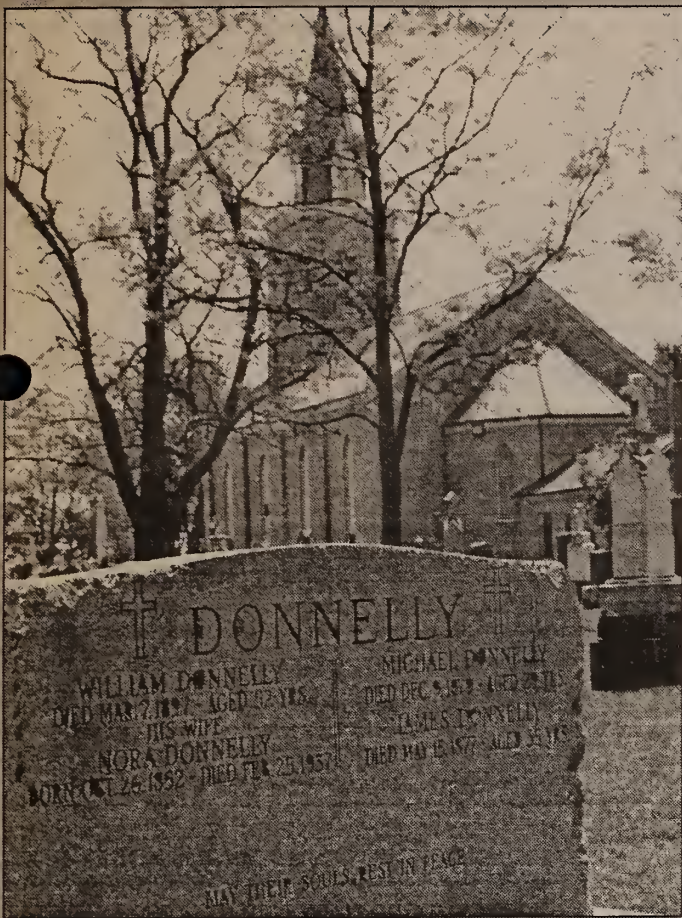
"She was thinking about men washing her car," she said.

At first, the two graduates considered setting up a car wash in a driveway, and then in a tent, but too many permits were required for drainage, so they began looking at commercial property. They came upon the perfect two-bay garage in a good location, said Tastik, and were helped by an accommodating landlord who did not require an extensive lease.

With over \$5,000 of financing from Pamela's fiancé and the purchase of the necessary cleaning equipment, the women started up a year-round business.

Baywash currently employs eight women, part time. It also sells T-shirts and bikinis.





The new tombstone at the Donnellys grave site, at St. Patrick's Church in Lucan, replaces the original which had the word 'murdered' on it.

(Photo by L.A. Livingston)

## Spooky trip Donnellys still haunt Lucan

By L.A. Livingston

Rob Salts says there are things that go bump in the night in his house. He doesn't mind living with the ghosts of the murdered family that owned the farm over a hundred years ago, he says.

Salts lives on the Donnelly homestead, outside the town of Lucan, about an hour-and-a-half west of Kitchener-Waterloo. The Donnelly story, packed with incidents of feuds, fights, arson, abused animals and the murders of five Donnellys on Feb. 4, 1880, by members of a secret society, still draws many visitors to the little town.

Lucan can be reached by driving west, and then south on Highway 7 to the lights in Elginfield. Turning right onto Huron County Road 4 takes the visitor straight into Lucan. The first intersection after the lights at Elginfield is the Roman Line. The Donnelly homestead is about eight kilometres east on that road.

In Lucan, a small museum displays the history of the town and surrounding area. Part of that history includes the Wilberforce Settlement, Salts said, which consisted of black Americans who came to Canada after the abolition of slavery, and who had been bonded for the sum of \$500.

Although there are many other things the town is known for — like the Irish Nine baseball team that became so popular they had a brand of cigars named after them — the Donnellys remain the top draw for tourists, says Mike Anderson, director and

president of Lucan Area Heritage, an organization formed to promote the history of the area.

Donna Jones, treasurer of Lucan Area Heritage, said when she moved to Lucan in 1995, the museum held nothing on the Donnellys and no one talked about that part of the town's history.

Thomas P. Kelley wrote *The Black Donnellys* in 1954 and *Vengeance of the Black Donnellys* in 1962.

Salts said these books were responsible for giving Canadians a specific identity at a time when there was a lot of American influence.

"Kelley gave us something that was truly Canadian, albeit incorrect," he said.

It was Kelley's books, which told fictional tales of a mysterious woman on a horse and curses from the grave, that gave the people of Lucan something to hold on to, said Salts.

Salts gives tours of the Donnelly homestead and has just published a book entitled *You Are Never Alone: Our Life on the Donnelly Homestead*.

During his tour, he points out the fieldstones marking the original house built by James Donnelly, and opens the barn briefly to visitors. He says the barn is a depository for spirits.

At the corner of the Roman Line and Huron County Road 4 is St. Patrick's Catholic Church, where the Donnellys are buried. The tombstone there replaced the original stone which had the controversial word 'murdered' on it, Salts said.

## St. Jacobs host to millions

By Rebecca Eby

The village sits on 600 acres of land north of Waterloo and has a population of merely 1,400, but 1.3 million visitors roam the streets of St. Jacobs every year.

Byron Shantz, tourism manager for St. Jacobs, said the single largest attraction is the St. Jacobs Farmers' Market.

With about 450 vendors to hold their interest, around 20,000 people visit the market on a Thursday or Saturday during the summer. Tuesday market days are not quite as popular, he said.

At the market, there are food and craft vendors, an outdoor market square and a peddlers' village building. It also hosts a stockyards which visitors are welcome to attend.

Although the market is the most popular attraction, a 30-store factory outlet mall and the village's 100 shops help keep this turn-of-the-century settlement vibrant.

The outlet mall hosts brand name stores such as a Levi's Outlet and Villeroy and Boch, specialty fashion shops, a Lego Creative Play Centre, a food court and a candy store where candy-making is done in full view of the customers.

The village is "one of the most unique cultural, dining and shopping areas in the region," said Shantz.

St. Jacobs is brimming with one-of-a-kind shops, crafts and antiques. Local artisans, from blacksmiths to broom-makers, display their works and welcome visitors to watch them perform their trades.

The Meeting Place preserves the heritage that attracts many visitors to St. Jacobs. A series of multimedia displays, gives visitors a glimpse into the Mennonite settlers' history, culture and faith of the settlers.

Off the main street, is the St. Jacobs Schoolhouse Theatre. The renovated 1867 schoolhouse is used for theatrical drama, music and dance.

Until December 31, the Drayton Festival Theatre's production of the hit musical comedy *Forever Plaid* is playing at the theatre.



Maigen O'Narra, a University of Waterloo student, plays for tourists in front of the original Home Hardware store in St. Jacobs on July 3.

(Photo by Lisa Kloefer)

For visitors wanting to add more physical activity to their day, the village is beginning to offer soft adventures, said Shantz. Hiking the Mill Race Footpath, canoeing, fishing and horseback riding are welcome along the Conestogo River.

Dining is available at the Stone Crock Restaurant, Benjamin's Restaurant and Inn, the Copper Kettle Restaurant and numerous cafes and specialty food shops scattered throughout the village.

There are over 500 free parking spaces available in the village, said Shantz, and eight areas designated

for bus parking.

For those who wish to avoid traffic and the hassles of finding a parking spot, a 1950s-style passenger train, the Streamliner, is designated to make four daily round trips from Waterloo to St. Jacobs.

Another alternative mode of transportation is the horse-drawn trolleys which run between the village and the market and provide tours of the village and surrounding countryside.

However they get to St. Jacobs, Shantz said, people often return bringing their family and friends with them.



A group of tourists sample Ontario maple syrup in front of The Forge and Anvil shop in St. Jacobs, on July 3. The Forge and Anvil was formerly the village blacksmith shop.

(Photo by Lisa Kloefer)



# Pasture to paradise

## Guelph Lake Conservation Area offers variety of outdoor activities

By Tony Kobilnyk

It used to be a field. Rows of crops lined the fertile soil, and through the middle of it, the Speed River meandered its way across the pastoral countryside.

In 1976 the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) completed the 700-metre long Guelph dam, which flooded 360 hectares of the field behind it to create Guelph Lake.

The purpose of the dam was to provide flood control and low-flow augmentation for the Grand River watershed.

But the lake behind the dam also opened up a deluge of recreational activities that has delighted day visitors and campers for almost 20 years.

Located on Township Rd. 6, just one kilometre north of Guelph, Guelph Lake Conservation Area offers plenty of activities for a day trip or a weekend retreat.

Swimmers and sunbathers are attracted to the two sandy beaches at the lake. The beach is harrowed and raked regularly, aquatic vegetation is removed and a bird net has been constructed over the beach and swimming area to keep the birds at bay. Caution is recommended however, since beach patrols are no longer present because of funding cuts to the GRCA, said Renee Robertson, a gate attendant at the park.

Windsurfing, sailing and canoeing are very popular at the lake, she said. The GRCA does not



FROM LEFT — Stephanie, Ashley, Brandon and Nathan Poit enjoy their day on the beach at Guelph Lake. (Photo by Tony Kobilnyk)

allow motorized boats on the lake so mariners can enjoy the lake peacefully and safely.

An independent concession at the lake rents canoes, kayaks and row boats on an hourly basis or by the day.

Fishing draws its share of visitors to the park as well, with large and smallmouth bass, and northern pike commonly being caught.

Robertson said that for \$10 a hydrographic map can be purchased that shows the varying

depths of the lake. Avid fishers can use this to figure out where the big one is hiding.

Unfortunately, shade trees are scarce at the park. Robertson attributed this to the park's young age and the slow process of developing the park from its former agricultural use to the new recreational use.

"We're always planting trees," she said, "We just have to wait for them to grow now."

Each year events are drawing

more visitors to the park. The Hillside Festival, a three-day music festival starting July 25, will feature about 40 groups, soloists and dancers, performing everything from folk music to Afro-Cuban jazz.

The Worship Arts and Music Festival, Swift canoes demonstration and sale days and TriSport Triathlons are some other events that bring people to the park.

Robertson said it is possible another music festival called Raw

Concerts may find its way to the park in September. This festival should also showcase a variety of music in an outdoor setting but it is still in the planning stages and may not take shape this year.

Visitors who want to stay longer than just a day, can arrange for a camp site. The park has 250 unserviced sites (no electricity or water) and 105 serviced sites. The cost ranges from \$9 to \$13 per night.

Campers can take advantage of the activities offered by the visitor services program such as hayrides, movie nights, baseball games, and camp fires. For children, activities such as nature hikes, coloring contests, scavenger hunts and sand sculpting are possible weekly events.

Admission to the park is \$3.25 for persons over 14; \$1.75 for children between six and 14 years old; children under five can use the park free of charge. To obtain more information on the park and events call (519) 824-5061.

Guelph Lake is not the only GRCA park within a short driving distance from Kitchener and Waterloo. Bellwood Lake in Fergus, Conestogo Lake in Drayton, Elora Gorge in Elora, Laurel Creek in Waterloo and Shade's Mills in Cambridge are all ideal spots to spend a summer day in the great outdoors. For more information on any of the parks call the GRCA at (519) 621-2761 or see the web page at [www.grandriver.on.ca](http://www.grandriver.on.ca).

## Grand Valley Trail a journey across southwest Ontario

By Hunter Malcolm

Nature lovers or anyone looking for a scenic escape from the city and the office may want to explore the shores of the Grand River in its entirety, from Alton to Lake Erie.

The Grand Valley Trails Association is a non-profit volunteer conservation and recreation organization formed in 1972. Since then they have secured landowner permission to build and maintain over 250 kilometres of trail in the Grand River Valley.

"The terrain is mostly riverside, rural meadow and woodland. With the changing seasons in Southern Ontario, there are some spectacular views," said Brantford's association representative, Chris Tranmer.

The trails follow the Grand River, giving visitors a chance to take in the many unique features of Canada's only official Canadian Heritage river to flow through urban areas.

Following the trail into the Brantford area, day-trippers will enter the "Carolinian Zone", where people interested in nature study can find rare trees such as the Burr Oak and Sycamore. One can also see a wide variety of plants and wild flowers and many species of birds and animals, including heron and deer.

"These trails are great because not only are they so extensive in

terms of their natural abundance but because they are located right here in the city," said Dan Dropko, a Brantford resident. "I can literally walk out my front door and just keep walking, all the way to Elora if I wanted to."

Indeed, you don't have to be a natural scientist to appreciate the beauty of the trails, Dropko says.

The pathways offer miles of trails ideal for biking, jogging or just lazy-day sight seeing.

"The same trail which leads to the Alexander Graham Bell Homestead in Brantford, will also take you to Kitchener's Mennonite Pioneer Tower."

*Chris Tranmer,  
Brantford's Grand Valley Trails  
Association representative*

Tranmer said the trails are great for a family picnic or for getting to and from points of interest.

"The same trail which leads to the Alexander Graham Bell homestead in Brantford will also take you to Kitchener's Mennonite Pioneer Tower," said Tranmer.

The river itself is also great for fishing and canoeing.

Dropko said some of his best days were spent hiking to nearby Paris in the morning and then hopping in a canoe and fishing for dinner on the way home in the afternoon.

"After a long week of office work, being out in the fresh air and on the water is a great way to kick back and relax. I am happy to support the Grand Valley Trails," said Dropko.

"The continued existence of the trail depends on the goodwill of the public-spirited landowners who have given their permission to the association members to walk over their properties," said Tranmer.

"It is important that trail users respect the privacy and rights of the landowners," he said.

With that in mind the association implemented a users' code by which the beauty and continued access to the trails may be maintained for years to come.

The code is based on common sense; no camping, camp fires, motorized vehicles or horses, and respect for the vegetation and wildlife.

"Leave only your thanks and take nothing but photographs," states the code.

So whether you're young or old, this is the easy get-away from the city — right in the city.



Dan Dropko makes tracks on the Grand Valley Trail in Brantford. (Photo by Hunter Malcolm)



# Falling for Niagara

Niagara Falls offers a lot more to visitors than just magnificent views of the falls

By Ian S. Palmer

Like a favorite uncle, Niagara Falls can always be depended upon for a good time when needed.

The Falls, birthplace to Indian legends and site of numerous daredevil stunts, lies about 150 kilometres southeast of Kitchener, on the Canadian-American border.

Millions of tourists visit yearly to witness the power of the falls, shop, play, dine, be entertained or just relax. The area's natural beauty has been well preserved and is easily accessible.

Tourists gaze in awe at the sights and sounds as 168,000 cubic metres of water plunges over the falls every minute into the river 52 metres below. The force of the water makes it one of the world's greatest sources of hydro-electric power.

If you visit primarily to see the wonders of the water, various attractions offer breathtaking views from different vantage points. The Explorer's Passport Plus (adult-\$17.75, children six to 12-\$9, under five-free) includes admission to the Journey Behind the Falls, Niagara Spanish Aero Car and The Great Gorge Adventure. The passport also provides all-day transportation aboard the People Movers buses, which cover a 30-kilometre route from May to mid-October.

The Journey Behind the Falls (open year round) offers a spectacular view of thundering Horseshoe Falls from an observation deck below and from a network of tunnels located behind the falls.

The Great Gorge Adventure, (early May to late October) located about three kilometres from the Falls, gives a view of the Whirlpool Rapids as they rage into the Niagara Whirlpool. A 305-metre long boardwalk allows you to walk alongside the river. As you look up, you see the gorge walls carved out of rock, and think back to hundreds of years ago when the falls fell in this same spot. Niagara Falls was located about 11 kilometres downstream 12,000 years ago and the rock has since eroded away to its present position.

The Spanish Aero Car (mid-March to end of November) gives a fascinating view of the whirlpool from high above. At this spot, the whirlpool is formed at the end of the rapids and different shades of green can be seen as the water travels the narrowest spot in the gorge. On the trip, you can see the rapids, whirlpool, gorge and hydro-electric plants.

Another way to experience The Falls is to take a voyage on the Maid of the Mist, (adults-\$10.10, children six to 12-\$6.25, under five-free) which has been operating since 1846, making it one of North America's oldest tourist attractions.



The Maid of the Mist can be seen as it cruises the basin of the Horseshoe Falls, viewed from the Skylon Tower in Canada. (Photo by Ian S. Palmer)

The boat travels to the base of the American Falls and then rocks its way through the basin of the Horseshoe Falls. The half-hour cruise gives you a chance to view the falls as they seem to be coming down on top of you. Photographs are difficult to take here because of the mist spraying into the boat. Voyages are available on both sides of the border until Oct. 24.

If you want an aerial view of Niagara, helicopter rides are available from 9 a.m. to sunset and cost about \$60.

Niagara Falls also offers many attractions away from the water.

Clifton Hill is a focal point of activity as it hosts museums, including Ripley's Believe It Or Not, Movieland Wax Museum, and Louis Tussauds Wax Works. The street is also home to gift shops, restaurants, hotels and bars.

If shopping is your bag there are factory outlets willing to serve you on the American side, including The Walden Galleria, Niagara International Factory Outlets and Rainbow Centre Factory Outlet.

There are also immaculately-kept parks and horticultural displays throughout the area, including Niagara's Floral Clock and Centennial Lilac Gardens (free).

When night descends, Niagara Falls still bustles, as diners can choose from a variety of restaurants, including Italian, Chinese,

Japanese and Greek, along with North American and fast food outlets. The Skylon Tower's rooftop restaurant gives a magnificent view of the area, as it revolves 360 degrees every hour.

After dinner, you may want to take in a show at Yuk Yuk's, visit Rumours nightclub atop Clifton Hill, visit the new casino located by Rainbow Bridge or view the falls at night as they are illuminated by colored spotlights.

Niagara is also lively in the winter as the annual Winter Festival of Lights is on display, starting Nov. 22.

It is hard to enjoy everything Niagara Falls has to offer in one day, which makes it ideal to visit a few times yearly. Accommodation is easy to find if you decide to spend the night, and this is tempting since it is known as the honeymoon capital of the world. Some hotels offer rooms overlooking the falls and most hotels have two-day packages.

Niagara also has an Imax movie theatre and is home to Marineland, a game and water park. If you plan on visiting America, remember to take identification with you, and if you're not a Canadian citizen, take along your passport.

The People Movers buses (adult-\$4.25, children-\$2.25) are recommended as the sites are spread over quite a distance. They run until Oct. 13.



The American Falls as seen from the top of the Skylon Tower, located on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls. (Photo by Ian S. Palmer)

## Canoeing is Grand adventure

By Lisa Kloepper

Nestled on the Grand River at Freeport in Kitchener, an adventure by canoe awaits local residents.

Canoeing the Grand Inc. has been providing a shuttle service and canoe rental for day trips down the river for six years, said Dan Vlasak, who works for the company.

He said the idea for the company was his cousin's, Dusan Hanousek.

Hanousek was paddling down the river one day when the idea struck him to open the company so others could have access to canoes and the river.

They run trips from West Montrose to Freeport, which takes seven hours, and costs \$33.

Another trip from Conestoga costs \$51, and takes five hours.

The trip from Kaufman's Flats to Freeport is \$48 and takes four hours.

The shortest trip, lasting two hours, is \$35, from Breslau to Freeport.

The shuttles leave Freeport every hour on the hour and connect with four access

points upstream.

The company also arranges to pick up customers in Cambridge if they choose to go down the river from Freeport. Canoe rental and life preservers for two people are included in the cost.

One may also rent canoes or kayaks without the shuttle. They rent fibreglass, kevlar, and molded (polyethylene) canoes and polyethylene kayaks.

The fibreglass and kevlar canoes are recommended for extended trips and the molded canoe is best for simple river paddling.

The company offers brief canoe instruction and a life preserver, but from there, safety is in the hands of the customer.

The company is open from the last Saturday in April through to the second Sunday in October.

Vlasak said business is usually slow but "it picks up on the weekends."

Canoeing the Grand Inc. is open daily from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Reservations are necessary and can be made at 3734 King St. E., Kitchener or by calling (519) 896-0290.

## Blowing in the wind



Christopher Regier, 7, (left) and Brandon McCormick, 9, take advantage of high winds by making a "sail" out of a beach towel at St. Christopher's Beach in Goderich. The beach is located on a protected bay on Lake Ontario. It has swimming and windsurfing areas, a boardwalk and playgrounds. (Photo by Ellen Douglas)



# Hockey school comes to recreation centre

By Andrea Bailey

Former NHL player and major junior hockey coach Ray McKay is hosting two training camps at Conestoga's recreation centre throughout July.

The checking and hitting camp is open to boys and girls between the ages of 10-13 and it runs in two sessions. The first session, which began July 6, takes place every Sunday evening. The second is a week-long session from July 14-18.

"The checking and hitting camp teaches kids to protect themselves at all times on the ice," said McKay. "They will be able to see a hit coming and prepare for it in a way that they won't get hurt."

"I will be focusing on both shoulders and hand positioning, along with handling the stick. Finally, I will teach them how to stop, or at least slow

down, opponents in mid-ice or along the boards."

The defencemen's camp is open to boys and girls between the ages of 9-16, and it also runs in two sessions. The first takes place during the week of July 14-18. The second runs during the week of July 21-25.

"In this camp, I teach mainly defencemen how to play the position," said McKay. "We run through skating drills and game situations drills, which involve blocking passes and shots. We will be doing one-on-ones, two-on-ones and three-on-tuos. They will take us through the week, one day spent on each and we'll finish with a review." McKay's camps have been running

for eight years, five of which, he said, Conestoga has had a part in.

He runs other camps throughout

"The kids will learn more in five days than they have in the last five years."

Ray McKay  
Former NHL player and  
junior hockey coach



Instructor Ray McKay (right) demonstrates a "checking exercise" with Derek Nissen at the checking and hitting hockey camp at the recreation centre July 6.  
(Photo by Tim Kylie)

the summer in other cities, including a goal scoring camp and a stickhandle, pass and shoot camp.

McKay said he played profes-

sional hockey for 15 years, including seasons with Chicago, Buffalo and California of the NHL the World Hockey Association,

European teams and in the minor system. He also coached the Medicine Hat Tigers in the junior system.

McKay said through his experience on the ice he tries to make his camps beneficial for children who have no contact-hockey experience.

"The kids will learn more in five days than they have in the last 150 years," he said.

McKay said, though his camps are open to both genders, more males tend to sign up. There are a smaller number of girls who take part than boys.

"The girls are usually more timid. But the girls are more than welcome," McKay said.

"Experience doesn't matter. We take players from triple A, double A, single A and different house leagues. It's really a good mix."

McKay said the main thing he wants players to take from his camps is a little more knowledge than they had before.

"When you learn a little more than you knew before coming in, it's worth the money you pay."

To sign up for any of McKay's hockey camps phone (519) 666-0651.

## Conestoga hosts annual football camp

By Andrea Bailey

Conestoga recently hosted the third annual All-Pro Football camps, which display the skills of about 150 high school players from Ontario, Quebec and western Canada.

Rick Zmich, the head coach of Wilfrid Laurier University's football team, said he runs the two-session camps along with many other coaches from

American and Canadian colleges and universities.

The first camp ran from June 29 to July 2 and the second ran July 6-9.

Zmich, who has been involved with the camps for the past eight years, said the objective is fundamentally based and is geared to assist youthful players with their skill development.

"The camps have a three-fold purpose," he said.

"The players are supposed to have fun, improve their fundamentals and become identified as prospects to college scouts who are on hand here."

He said the scouts come from across Canada and the U.S. to observe what the players have to offer in talent.

The camps, Zmich said, are open to any talent level, from beginners to veterans, regardless of athletic ability.

"We demonstrate running and

speed development first," he said.

"These two things seem to be viewed as lacking in most Canadian athletes by the American scouts. I have to remind some of them that a Canadian named Donovan Bailey recently beat an American in a test of speed."

"We don't have a lot of contact at these camps and there's not a lot of scrimmaging," Zmich said.

"We teach the basic skills of football along with positional skills."

Zmich said, aside from the game skills, the coaches promote good philosophies about life in general.

"After each session, we talk to the

players about different things like studies and teamwork," said Zmich. "Great friends are made along with the building of skill and talent. Players are focused and, through that, they become better."

"It's all about self-determination," he said.

He added, "We make good players great players. This is probably the premier football camp in all of Canada."

Zmich said the staff enjoy the facilities at Rodeway Suites, where they and the players stay during the camps, and at the recreation centre.

He said he hopes he will be returning to Conestoga next year for the 1998 sessions.

"We make good football players great players. This is probably the premier football camp in all of Canada."

Rick Zmich  
coach, All-Pro Football camp



Ray Thomas of Hamilton tries to carry the football past assistant coach Brian Letscher on the field behind the college tennis courts July 2.  
(Photo by Andrea Bailey)

## Double trouble



Lynda Palmer (left), Michelle Bonneville (runner) and Melanie Finney start a double play at Riverside Park during the annual Steelers baseball tournament held throughout K-W July 4-8.  
(Photo by Ian S. Palmer)